

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2460

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T VIENNA 3271

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; FROM US REP MBFR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: APRIL 9 AD HOC GROUP MEETING

1. SUMMARY: GROUP HEARD BILATERAL REPORTS FROM FRG REP AND UK REP. FRG REP REPORTED THAT POLISH REP HAD, (1) COMPLAINED OF LACK OF FLEXIBILITY AND NEGATIVE APPROACH OF WEST VIS-A-VIS EAST; (2) HINTED AT PHASING AND CONCEPT OF A FREEZE; (3) INDICATED THAT EAST THOUGHT WEST MIGHT BE FLEXIBLE ON INCLUDING AIR MANPOWER IN A COMMON CEILING; (4) CLAIMED THAT WEST'S ARGUMENT THAT EUROPEAN FORCE REDUCTIONS WAS SENSIBLE, BUT ONLY AS AN ARGUMENT FOR SMALLER INDIGENOUS REDUCTIONS AND; (5) ARGUED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST BE REDUCED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. UK REP REPORTED THAT SOVIET DEPREP HAD: (1) BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT APRIL 9 PLENARY STATEMENT ON "A SMALL FIRST STEP" AND WONDERED IF IT SIGNALLED A MOVE TOWARD EAST'S

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POSITIONS; (2) STATED THAT A FREEZE BY ITSELF WOULD NOT MEET

SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO LACK OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN FIRST PHASE; AND; (3) SUGGESTED MILITARY EXPERTS SHOULD JOIN IN DATA DISCUSSIONS. UK REP ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD WARSAW PACT WOULD HOLD SUMMIT MEETING IN WARSAW ON 17 APRIL AND THAT MBFR WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

2. GROUP SLIGHTLY MODIFIED WESTERN APRIL 10 PRESS STATEMENT TO INCLUDE A FLANK SECURITY STATEMENT AND DISCUSSED SOVIET APRIL 9 PLENARY STATEMENT. CONSENSUS WAS THAT APRIL 9 SOVIET STATEMENT HELD NO SURPRISES AND WAS HARD LINE, YET MODERATED BY TONE IF NOT CONTEND. END SUMMARY.

3. CHAIRMAN (CANADIAN REP GRANDE) OPENED MEETING BY ASKING FOR GROUP COMMENTS ON NETHERLANDS DELEGATION SUGGESTED CHANGE TO PARA 11 OF PRESS STATEMENT TO BE GIVEN ON APRIL BY AMB QUARLES. CHANGE REFERS TO FLANK SECURITY ISSUE AND HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY GROUP DURING APRIL 8 AHG MEETING. GREEK REP, DOUNTAS, THANKED NETHERLANDS DELEGATION FOR THE EXCELLENT JOB AND SAID THE CHANGE MET HIS REQUIREMENTS. GROUP AGREED. INSERTION READS: BEGIN TEXT: FURTHERMORE WE APPEAR TO AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE THAT FUTURE AGREEMENTS SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. IN THIS CONTEXT WE SEEM TO SHARE VIEWS THAT AS A RESULT OF FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE TENSIONS SHOULD NOT BE SHIFTED TO THE FLANK COUNTRIES. END TEXT.

4. BILATERALS: FRG REP (BEHREND) GAVE EXTEMPORANEOUS REPORT OF A BILATERAL CONVERSATION HE HAD SAME DAY WITH POLISH REP STRULAK (DETAILS SENT SEPTEL). BEHREND REPORTED POLISH REP CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY AGAIN REFERRING TO US REP'S APRIL 9 PLENARY STATEMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT WESTERN ARGUMENT THAT EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS WOULD BE OF A DIFFERENT CHARACTER THAN US-SOVIET REDUCTION WAS INDEED A CORRECT ONE BUT WAS BEING USED IMPROPERLY BY THE WEST. POLISH REP SAID IT WAS A SENSIBLE ARGUMENT IN PRESSING FOR GREATER REDUCTIONS BY US-SOVIET, BUT NOT FOR DELAYING EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS.

5. US REP COMMENTED THAT LAST POINT WAS VERY INTERESTING AND TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT THE ARGUMENT ON THE DIFFERENT CHARACTER OF EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS IS MAKING GROUND WITH THE EAST. THE EAST, HE FELT WAS HAVING TROUBLE REBUTTING THAT ARGUMENT AND

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WEST SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS IT. US REP ALSO NOTED THAT KHLESTOV'S LACK OF REFERENCE TO THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS IN HIS APRIL 9 PLENARY IS ANOTHER BIT OF EVIDENCE THAT THIS ARGUMENT MIGHT BE PROVING DIFFICULT FOR THEM.

6. UK/USSR: UK REP (ROSE) GAVE A BRIEF SUMMARY AND THEN PASSED OUT A WRITTEN REPORT, (SEPTEL) ON A BILATERAL LUNCHEON HE HAD JUST COMPLETED WITH SOVIET DEP REP SMIRNOVSKY. HIGHLIGHT WAS

SOVIET DEP REP'S COMMENT THAT IN NEXT DATA RELATED INFORMAL SESSION IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR EACH SIDE TO HAVE MILITARY EXPERTS ATTEND THE MEETING ALSO. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE EXPOSURE OF EASTERN MILITARY TO THE POLITICAL COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISSUES COULD PROVE USEFUL. SOVIET DEP REP INDICATED THAT EVENTUALLY THEY WOULD PRESENT DATA WHICH WOULD LESSEN THE MANPOWER GAP INDICATED BY THE WESTERN DAT. SOVIET DEP REP ALSO STATED THAT A FREEZE OF EUROPEAN FORCES ALONE WOULD NOT SATISFY EAST INSISTENCE ON EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN PHASE I.

7. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) FOUND THE POINT ON EASTERN MILITARY REPS INTERESTING AND SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT MEAN THEIR MILITARY REPS WERE NOT NOW INCLUDED IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS HELD BY THE EAST.

8. APRIL 8 INFORMAL REPORT: US DELEGATION CIRCULATED REPORT OF APRIL 8 INFORMAL MEETING. GROUP DISCUSSION WAS MINIMAL SINCE IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, BASED ON AN ORAL REPORT, AT APRIL 8 AHG MEETING.

9. EASTERN PRESS CONFERENCE: THE TEXT OF THE POLISH REP'S PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WAS DISTRIBUTED (SEPTLE). AT THEREQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN, THEUS DELEGATION PRESS OFFICER (HOLZNPFL) GAVE A BRIEF REPORT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. HE OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR STRULAK'S PERFORMANCE, IN COMPARISON TO THE TWO PREVIOUS PRESS CONFERENCES HE HAD HELD WAS A FAIRLY LACK-LUSTER ONE. IT WAS PERHAPS DUE TO HIS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, PLUS THE BLAND CONTENT OF HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, THAT THE ATTENDING PRESS CORPS HAD FAILED TO AKS PENETRATING QUESTIONS. CANADIAN REP OBSERVED THAT STRULAK DID NOT REFER TO THE SYMBOLIC REDCUTIONS NOR CALL FOR ALL NATIONS TO REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET IN HIS STATEMENT. IN REPLY TO THE LUXEMBOURG REPRESENTATIVE'S (WINTER) OBSERVATION THAT  
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STRULAK APPEARED TO BE SPEAKING FOR POLAND INSTEAD OF THE EAST AS A WHOLE, US PRESS REP REPLIED THAT STRULAK TAKES THE POSITION AT THESE PRESS CONFERENCES THAT HE SPEAKS FOR POLAND BUT HIS VIEWS ARE ALSO THE VIEWS OF ALL THE EASTERN DELEGATES. US DEP REP NOTED AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE IDEA OF A FREEZE IN STRULAK'S PREPARED PRESS STATEMNT. IF REFERRED TO THE LOOP HOLES WHICH ARE LEFT IF AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES ARE LEFT OUT OF REDUCTIONS.

10. KHLESTOV'S FUTURE: DISCUSSION THEN DEVELOPED OVER WHETHER OR NOT SOVIET REP KHLESTOV WOULD BE RETURNING TO VIENNA IN MAY. GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) REPORTED THAT KHLESTOV HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WANTED VERY MUCH TO GO TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, BUT HE DID NOT SEE HOW HE COULD MANAGE IT. CANADIAN REP REPORTED THAT KHLESTOV HAD SAID THAT THE SUBJECT

OF FORCE REDUCTIONS WAS BECOMING MORE ABSORBING FOR HIM AND  
THAT, WHILE KHLESTOV WANTED TO RETURN TO MOSCOW PERMANENTLY,  
HE WOULD PROBABLY COME BACK TO VIENNA.

11. UK

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## Message Attributes

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